



FREEDOM WATCH



July 18, 2002

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Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

More weapons caches found

U.S. Special Operations Forces operating in the Tarin Kowt area of the Oruzgan Province, were led to an ammunition and weapons cache in a compound by Afghan Militia Forces Tuesday. Materials found included:

- ❖ One 82 mm Recoiless Rifle (B-10)
- ❖ One RPG-7 Rocket Launcher
- ❖ Two RPG-7 Rocket Boosters
- ❖ Seven RPG-7 rounds
- ❖ 10 82 mm R/R Cheese Charge Pack
- ❖ 11 82 mm Mortar Charge Pack
- ❖ 73 82 mm Recoiless Rifle rounds
- ❖ 172 82 mm Mortar rounds
- ❖ 200 14.5 mm ammunition
- ❖ 203 107 mm Rocket Boosters
- ❖ 310 82 mm Mortar charges
- ❖ 1,000 7.62 by 39 mm ammunition,
- ❖ 1,250 .303 British ammunition
- ❖ 5,000 7.62 by 54 mm ammunition,
- ❖ 5,000 7.92 mm ammunition (Combined Joint Task Force – 180 press release)

Rumsfeld: 2 decades not ‘nothing’

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, July 16, 2002 — The American people will eventually see John Walker Lindh's deal with federal prosecutors as an appropriate outcome,

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said here July 15.

Rumsfeld discussed the Lindh case with CNBC television reporter Brian Williams. As part of his plea bargain with federal prosecutors signed early that day, Lindh, 21, agreed to co-

operate with U.S. military officials to combat al Qaeda terrorists in exchange for a prison sentence of up to 20 years.

"Well, I am delighted that he is going to be off the streets for a good, long time," Rumsfeld said of Lindh's deal. "Two decades is not nothing."

The "American Taliban" pleaded guilty to two of 10 charges against him: aiding the Taliban and possessing explosives in the commission of that crime. Had he been convicted of all 10

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Bagram mail clerks strive to maintain link to home

Story & photo by Spc. LaTorry
Sidney
300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — When the call to serve is made, answering it means a lot of different things for a lot of different reservists.

But for the members of the 834th Postal Detachment, Miami, mobilization meant another chance for the unit to prove their dedication.

"I was shocked when I got the call," said 1st Lt. Kenneth J. Fillmore, who has been with the unit for four years, serves as its commanding postal officer, "but it gives me a break from my civilian job."

The Ft. Lauderdale native, who serves as the unit's commander, earns his living as a mental health therapist.

Fillmore, having deployed to Saudi Arabia in the past, knows what it is to like be mobilized. However, this deployment is a little more trying because he now has an 11-month-old daughter.



Sgts. David Robinson and Alonzo T. McClain, both administrative specialists with the 834th Postal Detachment, organize outgoing mail on a pallet for shipping.

"My main motivation is my daughter," he said. "My goal is to do my best here so I can hurry home to her."

Being committed to your duties doesn't exempt you from the strain of being away from home, said Sgt. 1st Class Anthony A. Pinder, the platoon sergeant for the 834th.

"We left family members behind on a short notice, and that's

harder to deal with for some soldiers," he said.

"Soldiers get homesick," said Fillmore, "but it's not evident in our performance — only sometimes in our demeanor."

The harsh conditions faced by the 834th upon arrival here didn't help their transition from civilians to full-time soldiers, Fillmore said.

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charges, Lindh could have spent life in prison.

Rumsfeld noted that Lindh also withdrew charges that he was mistreated while in U.S. military custody in Afghanistan.

Northern Alliance forces captured Lindh Nov. 25, 2001, in Mazar-e Sharif, Afghanistan, following a Taliban-al Qaeda prison riot.

Justice Department officials said Lindh's plea bargain also calls for him to cooperate "fully, truthfully and completely" with the United States, and to testify at grand juries, trials or other proceedings, including military tribunals.

He agreed to participate in debriefings conducted by law enforcement and intelligence officers and will be available for pre-trial meetings with U.S. government attorneys. He also agreed to take lie detector tests.

Commenting on the plea bargain, Rumsfeld noted Lindh "was a relatively low-level person in the al Qaeda, or Taliban, depending on what one wishes to say."

When captured by Northern Alliance troops, Lindh was armed and had been in a battle that took place in a prison in Mazar-e-Sharif, Rumsfeld remarked. The Defense Department, was consulted in the Lindh proceedings, but had no part in decisions regarding the plea bargain, he added.

When Lindh's plea agreement is fully and publicly aired, Rumsfeld said, most Americans will agree as to its fairness. "People will look at the elements of it and nod and say, 'Well, that's appropriate. That's about right,'" he concluded.

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"Initially, we had difficulty making on-ground connections, the living conditions were different, and it was hard to get necessary supplies," he explained.

"Learning to adapt is just a part of being a soldier," said Sgt. 1st Class Valencia R. Knox-Davis, an administrative specialist and 19-year reservist. "Each deployment is different."

Despite the hardships and homesickness, the postal unit has displayed its persistence by striving to perform under demanding circumstances.

"Our leadership has really come together as a command element," Fillmore noted. "Here, I deal with professionals, each with nine years of experience on average. My success or failure as a commander depends on them."

The desire to do their best is part of what keeps the unit going, said Spc. Nicole P. Blackwood, administrative specialist with the 834th.

"Performing here wasn't much of a change," she said. "Sure, the environment is different, but I have a job to do back home just like I have a job to do here. I apply the same level of discipline to each."

In a location where the majority of soldiers are far from their loved ones, there's little mistaking the detachment's importance and purpose.

"For some troops, we're the only means of communication between here and home," said Pinder.

"I don't think soldiers understand exactly what it is we do, but I think we're appreciated for being the link that gets them their mail," agreed Knox-Davis. "I'm pretty sure everyone likes



Photo by Spc. Erica Leigh Foley

Spc. Alberto A Manualito, an administrative specialist with the 834th Postal Detachment, Miami, tightens the cargo straps on an outgoing pallet.

"Many people have the misconception that our job is all about licking stamps and sending boxes. It's more complicated than that... it's our job to make sure everyone gets their mail in a timely manner."

**— 1st Lt. Kenneth J. Fillmore,
834th Postal Detachment**

to get mail, and us being here makes that possible."

"In this environment, mail is the eye of the needle," said Fillmore, "That is, there's a lot of focus on what we do. Many people have the misconception that our job is all about licking stamps and sending boxes. It's more complicated than that. We've been accountable for 30- to 40,000 pounds of mail at a time, and it's our job to make sure everyone gets their mail in a timely manner."

"A lot of people think this job is easy, but our job here is

service," said Pinder. "Our mission here is to bridge the gap between family and troops. We're doing the job we're trained to do and we're doing it the best we can. We may not be the combat type of soldier, but I'm sure everyone appreciates what we do just as much as we appreciate what they do."

"Our unit has worked really hard on deployments," said Blackwood. "A lot of people take our specialty lightly, but if you look at it, we keep everyone from getting depressed."

HIND SIGHT

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Great Fire of Rome begins
(Nero didn't fiddle)

1716

Jews are expelled from Brussels,
Belgium

1914

U.S. Army Air Service first comes
into being in the Signal Corps

1936

Spanish Civil War begins;
Gen. Francisco Franco led uprising

1955

First electric power generated from
atomic energy sold commercially



Photo by Spc. Jason B. Baker

Khandahar sunset

A UH-60 Blackhawk and the mountains that surround Khandahar Airfield are silhouetted by the evening sunset.

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	Today	Friday
<u>Bagram:</u>	Partly cloudy H: 99F L: 73F	Partly cloudy H: 100F L: 73F
<u>Khandahar:</u>	Dusty H: 108F L: 72F	Dusty H: 108F L: 72F
<u>Kabul:</u>	Partly cloudy H: 93F L: 68F	Partly cloudy H: 95F L: 68F
<u>Uzbekistan:</u>	Clear H: 104F L: 72F	Clear H: 100F L: 71F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

FREEDOM WATCH

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COALITION SPORTSZONE

The Day in Sports

(Complied from ESPN.com)

Hit by pitch, Hunter heaves ball at Cleveland pitcher

CLEVELAND (AP) — Torii Hunter couldn't control his temper. His fastball was right on target, though.

Hunter fired the ball back at Cleveland's Danys Baez after being drilled by a pitch, and Rick Reed won for the first time in eight starts as the Minnesota Twins beat the Indians 8-5 Wednesday night.

Hunter, angered at being hit in the left side, retaliated in the fifth inning by picking up the ball and hitting Baez — about 40 feet away — in the upper leg.

Hunter was immediately ejected by plate umpire Ted Barrett and will likely face disciplinary action by the commissioner's office.

Tragedy overshadows 10th stage

PAU, France (AP) — A child's death overshadowed Lance Armstrong's ride to the foot of the Pyrenees, where he is expected to make his first serious assault on this year's Tour de France.

Before riders started Wednesday's 10th leg from Bazas to Pau, a car from the Tour convoy struck and killed a 7-year-old boy who was crossing the stage route.

A car belonging to a candy maker Haribo hit Melvin Pompele, but Tour director Jean-Marie Leblanc said there was no evidence the boy was reaching for candy thrown from the vehicle when he was hit.

Leblanc added that a moment of silence would be held today.

Wednesday's racing was uneventful, over a flat 91.14-mile course through Southwest France.

Frenchman Patrice Halgand took the leg, in the third fastest time for a flat stage in Tour history — 3 hours, 15 seconds, with an average speed of 30.337 mph.

Spain's Igor Gonzalez Galdeano retained the yellow jersey worn by the race leader for a seventh consecutive day. Armstrong, the three-time defending champion, finished with the main pack 3:57 behind Halgand, and continued to trail Gonzalez Galdeano by 26 seconds in the overall standings.

In the past, Armstrong has waited until the first mountain stage to take control of the Tour. Huge chunks of time can be won or lost in the mountains, where the Tour title usually is decided.

Today's leg, which takes riders on a tough 97.96-mile stretch through the Pyrenees, should show whether Armstrong is strong enough to win a fourth straight title. The stage starts in Pau and ends in the ski station of La Mongie.

2002 Major League standings

American League East			GB
N.Y. Yankees	59-35	.628	-
Boston	55-37	.598	3
Baltimore	45-47	.489	13
American League Central			GB
Minnesota	55-41	.573	-
Chicago (AL)	45-51	.469	10
Cleveland	42-51	.452	11.5
American League West			GB
Seattle	59-36	.621	-
Anaheim	54-38	.587	3.5
Oakland	55-39	.585	3.5
National League East			GB
Atlanta	60-35	.632	-
Montreal	48-46	.511	11.5
N.Y. Mets	48-46	.511	11.5
National League Central			GB
St. Louis	51-40	.560	-
Cincinnati	49-45	.521	3.5
Houston	45-48	.484	7
National League West			GB
Arizona	55-38	.596	-
Los Angeles	55-39	.585	1
San Francisco	54-40	.574	2

Wednesday

Minnesota 8-2 Cleveland
N.Y. Yankees 2-1 Detroit
Toronto 7-1 Baltimore
Atlanta 10-0 Florida
N.Y. Mets 9-6 Montreal
Philadelphia 4-3 Chicago Cubs
Boston 6-1 Tampa Bay
Kansas City 8-6 Chicago Sox
Seattle 6-3 Texas
Pittsburgh 6-3 Cincinnati
San Francisco 5-4 St. Louis
Houston 7-3 Milwaukee
Arizona 12-3 Colorado
San Diego 7-0 Los Angeles
Anaheim ?-? Oakland

Today

Boston at Tampa Bay
Minnesota at Cleveland
Detroit at N.Y. Yankees
Florida at Atlanta
Chicago Cubs at Philadelphia
N.Y. Mets at Montreal
San Francisco at St. Louis
Chicago Sox at Kansas City
Houston at Milwaukee
Arizona at Colorado
Baltimore at Toronto
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh
Seattle at Texas
Anaheim at Oakland
San Diego at Los Angeles